

WI-644  
John D. Williams House  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1887

John D. Williams, a partner in L. E. Williams & Company's planing mill, sash, door & blind factory, had direct access to most of the building materials necessary to erect this two-and-a-half story gable front Victorian house around 1887 after acquiring a "Park Street" lot from Gordon and Martha Toadvine for \$300. Few exterior alterations have modified the essential character of the side hall/parlor plan dwelling, which has an intact period porch of turned posts, carved corner brackets and decorated bargeboards. Most noteworthy about the porch is the unusual pierced panel and stick porch balustrade that stretches between the turned posts. More common to the period are the bay windows and colored glass sash that extend rooms and introduced multi-colored light to the interior. The John D. Williams house stands out along Park Avenue as a well preserved example of late nineteenth-century domestic design influenced by the popular literature of the period.

At the time the 1907 Salisbury City directory was published, John D. Williams is designated at "602 Park Street," as it was then known, with his wife Flora. Eleven years later, in April 1918, John D. Williams sold the house and lot to J. Ernest Shockley, who owned the property until his death in 1922, after which it became vested in Bessie Shockley Pope, Charles W. Shockley, and J. Ernest Shockley. The Williams house remained in Shockley family hands until 1981.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-644

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic John D. Williams House

other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number 302 Park Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

county Wicomico

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Katherine A. Marvin

street and number 302 Park Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Salisbury state Maryland zip code 21801

### 4. Location of Legal Description

~~courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.~~ Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1282 folio 535

city, town Salisbury tax map 106 tax parcel 990 tax ID number 9-056548

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-644

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John D. Williams house is located at 302 Park Avenue in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story late nineteenth-century gable front house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. Built around 1887, the irregular side hall/parlor plan Victorian house is supported by a raised brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The exterior is clad with a combination of asbestos shingles, fishscale shingles, and decorative beaded boards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story, one-bay by one-bay service wing.

The east (main) façade is a two-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking multi-paned window with colored glass perimeter panes hung with louvered shutters. The side entrance is distinguished by a Victorian four-panel door topped by a colored glass transom. The a first floor is sheltered by a turned post porch that wraps around the southeast corner to meet a lateral gable roofed wing. The entrance bay of the porch is distinguished by a cross gable with extended eaves and decorated bargeboards. The turned posts are enhanced with corner brackets, and an unusual pierced panel and stick design enriches the handrail between the posts. The ceiling of the porch is finished with narrow, tongue-and-groove beaded boards. The second story is defined by a pair of two-over-two sash windows. The gable end of the house is not covered with asbestos shingles and the original Victorian finishes survive in place. Across the lower wall surface of the gable end is a horizontal grid and panel decoration. Diagonal beaded boards fill a series of square panels, which is topped by fishscale shingles pierced by a multi-paned window. The extended eave has open soffits and decorated bargeboards. The bargeboards to this house have a distinctive three-lobed cloverleaf pierced decoration in the foot of each rafter, and the surface is fluted as well. The rafter tails are decorated as well. Rising through the center of the house is a brick chimney stack.

The south side of the house is defined by a two-story lateral wing that is extended farther by a two-story bay window topped by a shallow pitched cross gable roof. The bay window is lighted by multi-paned windows with colored glass perimeter panes. Piercing the gable end wall above the bay window is a triangular light that illuminates the attic. The edge of the gable roof is finished with an extended eave, open soffits, and decorated bargeboards like the front gable.

The north side is marked by a single-story bay window fitted with multi-paned windows with colored glass perimeter panes, and the edge of the bay window roof has a series of corner brackets. Otherwise the north wall is pierced by two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a triangular shaped attic light.

The west side of the main block is largely covered by a two-story, two-bay by one-room kitchen wing that is served by an interior end brick stack finished with a corbelled cap.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-644

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

John D. Williams, a partner in L. E. Williams & Company's planing mill, sash, door and blind factory, had direct access to most of the building materials necessary to erect this two-and-a-half story gable-front Victorian house around 1887 after acquiring a "Park Street" lot from Gordon and Martha Toadvine for \$300.<sup>1</sup> Few exterior alterations have modified the essential character of the side hall/parlor plan dwelling, which has an intact period porch of turned posts, decorative corner brackets and bargeboards. Most noteworthy about the porch is the unusual pierced panel and stick porch balustrade that stretches between the turned posts. More common to the period are the bay windows and colored glass sash that extend the rooms and introduce multi-colored light to the interior. The John D. Williams house stands out along Park Avenue as a well preserved example of late nineteenth-century domestic design influenced by the popular literature of the period.

At the time the 1907 Salisbury City directory was published, John D. Williams is designated at the 602 Park Street residence with his wife Flora.<sup>2</sup> In April 1918 John D. Williams sold the Park Avenue house and lot to J. Ernest Shockley, who owned the property until his death in 1922, after which the property became vested in Bessie Shockley Pope, Charles W. Shockley and J. Ernest Shockley.<sup>3</sup> The Williams house remained in Shockley family hands until 1981.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 2/409, 13 June 1887.

<sup>2</sup> Salisbury City Directory, 1907, transcribed and printed by Family Tree Bookshop, 1998, p. 59.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, AJS 962/681, 13 August 1981.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-644

Name John D. Williams House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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John D. Williams House  
302 Park Avenue  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 990

1049/174 Michael C. Wooten  
Eugenia C. Wooten

to

10/15/1985 Katherine A. Marvin

AJS 962/681 Bessie S. Pope et al. (Charles W. Shockley, J. Ernest Shockley)

to

8/13/1981 Michael C. Wooten  
Eugenia C. Wooten  
(upon the death of J. Ernest Shockley, intestate, on 5/20/1922, the property became vested in Bessie P. Shockley, now Bessie S. Pope, and J. Ernest Shockley, and C. W. Shockley)

JCK 109/48 John D. Williams

to

4/13/1918 J. Ernest Shockley

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-644

Name John D. Williams House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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FMS 2/409

Gordon H. Toadvine  
Martha J. Toadvine

to

6/13/1887

John D. Williams  
\$300

1907 Salisbury City Directory, John D. Williams (L. E. Williams Company)  
Flora Williams (wife of John D.) 602 Park Street

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. WI-664

Salisbury, Maryland City Directory, 1907, transcribed and printed by Family Tree Bookshop, Easton, 1998.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, microfilm at the Nabb Research Center of Delmarva History & Culture.  
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 11,904 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting 11,904 square feet  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

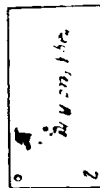
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name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	11/21/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

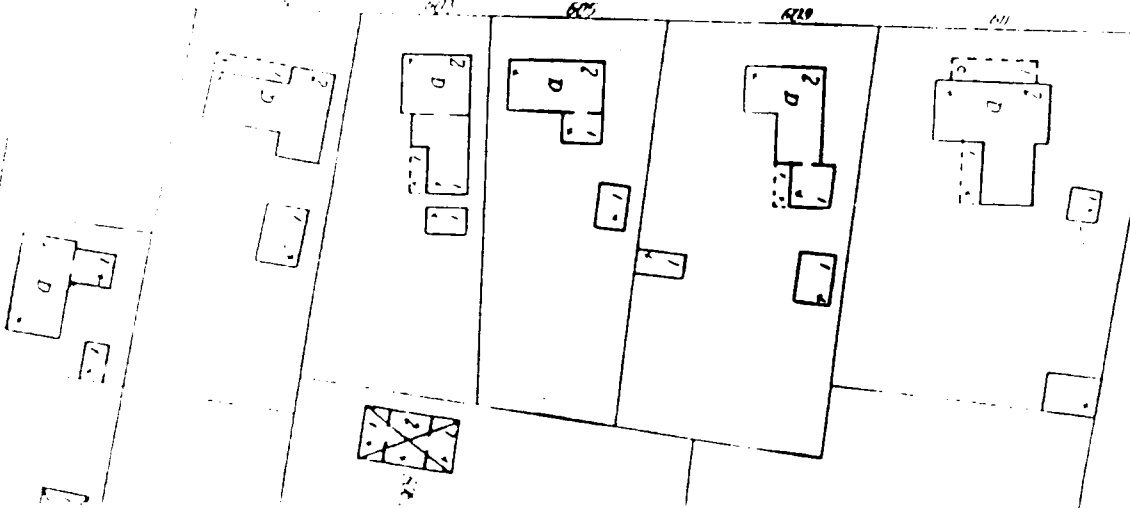
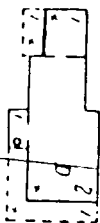
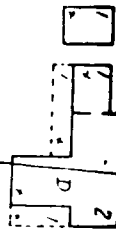
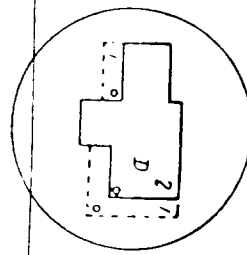
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



W1-644  
John D. Williams House  
302 Park Avenue  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1904

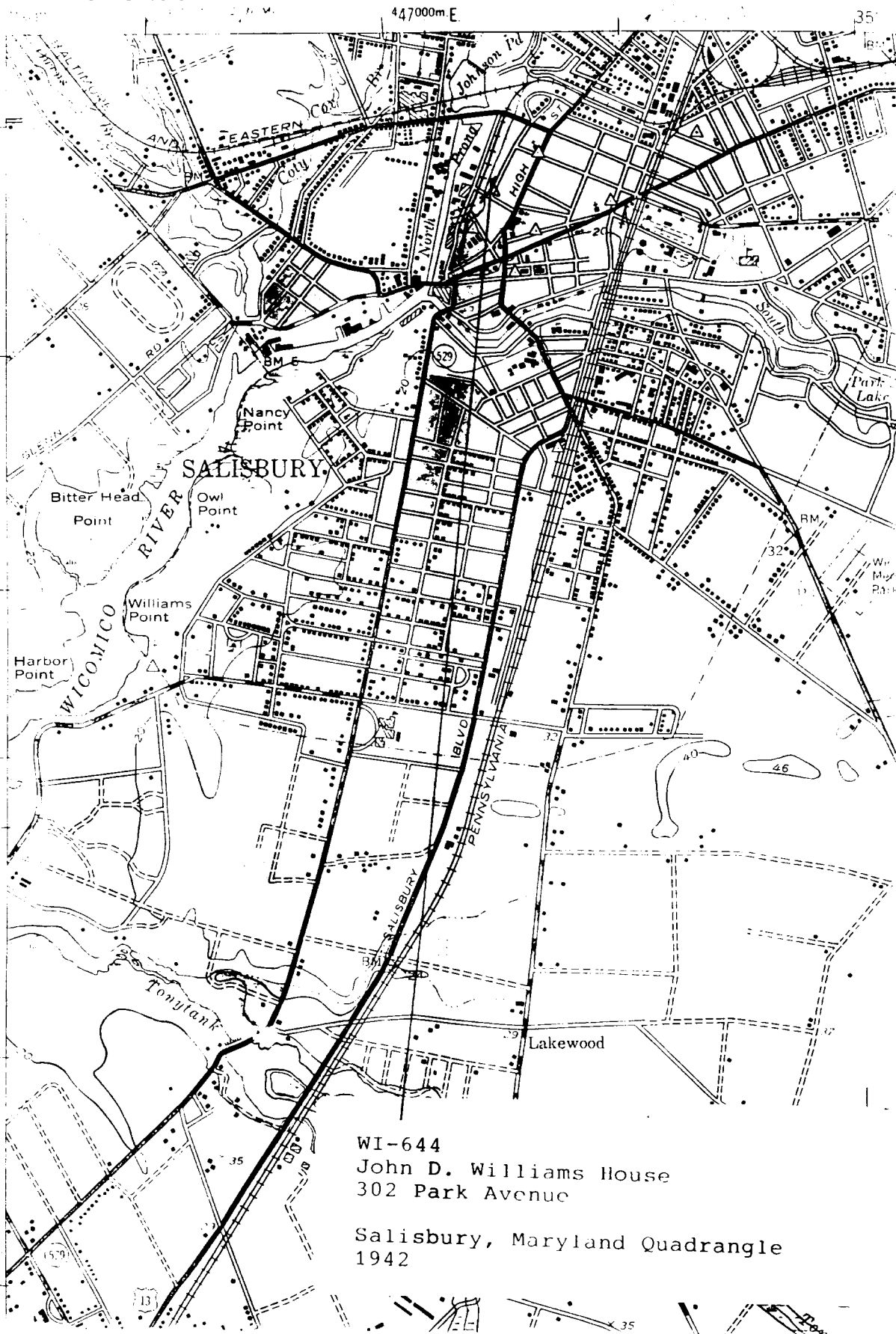
CHESTNUT

PA





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



WI-644  
John D. Williams House  
302 Park Avenue

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



W1-644

John D. Williams House

Sauk County, Wisconsin Co., W.D.

EAST ELEVATION

11/01, Paul Touart, PITTSBURGH

N.D. / M.D. Historical Trust

1 of 1